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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOME OF THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997

Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

Programme budget implications of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.3/50/L.64

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

1. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 2, 30, 32 and 33 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would:

(a) Endorse the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action as adopted by the Conference (para. 2);

(b) Request the Secretary-General to assume responsibility for the coordination of policy within the United Nations for the implementation of the Platform for Action and the mainstreaming of a system-wide gender perspective in all activities of the United Nations system, including training, in accordance with paragraph 326 of the Platform for Action (para. 30);

(c) Also request the Secretary-General to report, through the Commission on the Status of Women and the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session on ways to enhance the capacity of the Organization and of the United Nations system to support the ongoing follow-up to the Conference in the most integrated and effective way, including human and financial requirements (para. 32);

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(d) Further request the Secretary-General to ensure the more effective functioning of the Division for the Advancement of Women in order to carry out all the tasks foreseen for it in the Platform for Action by, inter alia, providing sufficient human and financial resources within the regular budget of the United Nations (para. 33).

I. ANALYSES OF ACTIVITIES AND RESOURCES RESULTING FROM THE DRAFT RESOLUTION

2. The activities envisaged in the above operative paragraphs of the draft resolution fall under programme 27, Advancement of women, of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, as revised. 1/ The Conference was held following the finalization of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997. 2/ Accordingly, the outcome of the Conference and, therefore, the activities envisaged in the draft resolution, have not been programmed in that budget. A specific notation was, in particular, made in section 7A, Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997, to the effect that programme 4, Advancement of women, of that section, would be revised on the basis of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women.

3. The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action 3/ set out measures for international action for the advancement of women. In particular, chapter V, Institutional arrangements, of the Platform calls for action by the Secretary-General that would require strengthening of activities and resources. At the time of the adoption of the Platform for Action, a statement of programme budget implications was submitted, which, inter alia, drew the Conference's attention to the fact that the final decision on those implications would be taken by the General Assembly (A/CONF.177/L.6).

4. As envisaged in that statement, the Secretary-General subsequently submitted to the General Assembly a report setting out the course of action he intends to take to initiate the necessary follow-up to the Conference, including in the areas covered by paragraphs 30, 32 and 33 of the draft resolution (A/50/744). The requirements for additional resources set out in the present statement relate to the activities set out in the report of the Secretary-General relevant to those paragraphs.

5. Paragraphs 38, 50 to 61 and 87 to 89 of the report of the Secretary-General set out the measures that the Secretary-General intends to take in response to the provisions in the Platform for Action calling on him to assume responsibility for the coordination of policy within the United Nations for the implementation of the Platform for Action and the mainstreaming of a system-wide gender perspective in all activities of the United Nations system, which are reaffirmed in paragraph 30 of the draft resolution. As part of those measures, and in order to ensure that the follow-up would be as broadly based as possible and reflect the expectations and concerns of major constituencies and groups on gender-related issues, the Secretary-General has proposed to complement the expertise available to him within the Organization and the United Nations system by drawing on the advice of a high-level board on the advancement of women.

6. The board, which would be composed of 15 to 20 eminent persons representing a broad range of experience and disciplines, would contribute to the building and strengthening of partnerships between the United Nations and major constituencies on gender-related issues; assist the Secretary-General and his senior adviser on gender-related issues in promoting knowledge and understanding of, and mobilizing support for, United Nations activities for the advancement of women in general, and the follow-up to the Conference in particular; and bring to the attention of the Secretary-General and, through him, to concerned intergovernmental and inter-agency bodies, emerging issues related to the implementation of the Platform and ways and means of addressing them.

7. The high-level board would consist of eminent persons appointed by the Secretary-General to serve in their individual capacity, with due regard to geographical representation. On the assumption that the board would comprise 15 persons and meet twice a year for three days each session to provide advice to the Secretary-General on issues related to the implementation of the Platform for Action, it is estimated that the resources (travel and subsistence costs) required would amount to $240,000 under section 7A of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

8. The measures proposed in paragraphs 36, 47, 49 and 62 to 75 of the report of the Secretary-General are relevant to the recommendations concerning the strengthening of the contribution of the Secretariat for the implementation of the recommendations of the Conference, contained in operative paragraphs 32 and 33 of the draft resolution. As part of the enhancement of "the capacity of the Organization and of the United Nations system to support the ongoing follow-up to the Conference in the most integrated and effective way, including human and financial requirements" (para. 32), the Secretary-General is requested to ensure the more effective functioning of the Division for the Advancement of Women in order to carry out all the tasks foreseen for it in the Platform for Action by, inter alia, providing sufficient human and financial resources within the regular budget of the United Nations.

9. As indicated in the report of the Secretary-General, the Division for the Advancement of Women will have a key role to play in respect of the implementation of the recommendations of the Conference, and in carrying out the specific functions entrusted to it in the Platform in connection with the provision of substantive support to the Commission on the Status of Women and other concerned intergovernmental bodies, as well as the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW); in relation to inter-agency coordination, monitoring and outreach; and in promoting the integration of a gender perspective in all policies and programmes, particularly through the application of gender analysis. The Platform specifically calls for the strengthening of the Division's substantive and analytical capacities in this respect, and the elaboration of studies examining obstacles to the advancement of women. The Secretary-General's report sets out the additional tasks that the Division will be called upon to assume in providing enhanced substantive support to the Commission on the Status of Women and in relation to inter-agency coordination and outreach activities, in paragraphs 64 and 67; in connection with the provision of support for CEDAW and, more generally, in contributing to the strengthening of the overall regime of the protection of the human rights of

women, in paragraph 66; and with respect to the carrying out of gender-impact analysis of policies and programmes, in paragraph 65.

10. It has been estimated that in order to carry out its expanded responsibilities in these three areas, the existing capacity of the Division would need to be strengthened by three additional posts at the Professional level (one P-5 and two P-4 posts).

11. The responsibilities of the posts are detailed as follows:

(a) The P-5 post would be utilized to enhance the capacity of the Division to assist the Commission on the Status of Women in monitoring action to be undertaken at all levels to implement the provisions of the Platform, including within the United Nations system, as called for in paragraph 328 of the Platform. As indicated in the Secretary-General's report, this will include the introduction of new methodologies and concepts to develop further the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women, as a monitoring and coordination tool, and the provision of enhanced support to the inter-agency machinery. The post will also contribute to strengthening the capacity of the Division for outreach to, and liaison with, national machineries, non-governmental organizations and other institutions of civil society, as called for in the Platform;

(b) One P-4 post would contribute to enhancing support for international policy-making to further effective follow-up to the Conference, and particularly to enhance substantive services to be provided by the Division to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, as called for in paragraph 324 of the Platform, in particular through the provision of gender-based information to various human rights treaty bodies, as well as measures to ensure that United Nations human rights activities address violations of women's human rights. In view of the importance accorded by the Platform to the elimination of violence against women, the Division will need to develop its database on this subject and to provide increased support to the Committee and the Special Rapporteur in this field. The integration of this expertise in the Division would also serve to facilitate and enhance interaction with the complementary activities being undertaken by the Centre for Human Rights;

(c) The other P-4 post would strengthen the Division's technical expertise in gender-impact analysis of policies and programmes, which was viewed by the Conference as a major prerequisite for mainstreaming. Pursuant to paragraph 328 of the Platform, the Division will need to enhance its capacity to conduct and coordinate studies, applying gender-impact analysis, to examine relationships between the advancement of women and other global issues and ways and means of promoting consistency and coherence in mainstreaming the gender dimension throughout the Organization. The post would also strengthen the capacity of the Division in respect of the development of databases and methodologies to analyse issues and developments concerning women in power and decision-making - one of the new dimensions of national and international action highlighted in the Platform.

12. The three Professional posts are proposed to be established effective 1 January 1996 as new posts. The relating requirements for salaries and common

staff costs would amount to $356,600. Moreover, an amount of $76,800 would be required for staff assessment.

13. In the context of the implementation of paragraph 32 of the draft resolution, the Secretary-General also intends to review the capacity of regional commissions to follow up the Platform for Action at the regional level. The results of the review would be reported to the General Assembly in the context of the report requested in operative paragraph 32 of the draft resolution.

14. The activities envisaged for other units of the Secretariat in the implementation of the Platform for Action, namely, those for the Department of Public Information, the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis and the Office of Human Resources Management, are discussed in paragraphs 70 to 75 of the Secretary-General's report. It has been estimated that these activities would be implemented from within the overall resources of those units proposed in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

II. PROPOSALS FOR ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES TO BE INCLUDED IN THE PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997

15. The following additional activities would be included in section 7A, Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, programme 4, Advancement of women, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997, in order to implement the draft resolution under consideration:

Section 7A. Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development

Programme 4. Advancement of women

Subprogramme 1. Equality

1. International cooperation

(a) Promotion of legal instruments. Promotional activities on ratification and implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

2. Parliamentary services

(a) Parliamentary documentation

(iii) Annual reports to the Commission on the Status of Women on the elaboration of an optional protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; report to the Commission on the extent to which violations of women's human rights are dealt with by/in the United Nations human rights regime;

(iv) Contributions to reports to human rights treaty bodies, as appropriate, providing information from a gender perspective with respect to national reports of States parties submitted by them to the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Committee on the Rights of the Child, and the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, in the context of implementation of relating Conventions.

Subprogramme 2. Development

1. Parliamentary services

(a) Parliamentary documentation

(i) Report to the General Assembly on women in rural areas, with emphasis on their participation in decision-making;

(ii) Report to the Commission on the Status of Women on decision-making in relation to development, as part of monitoring of the implementation of the Platform for Action.

Subprogramme 3. Peace

2. Published material

Technical material. Expansion of an update of the database on women in decision-making to include subnational level and international organizations, on an annual basis.

Subprogramme 4. Monitoring, review and appraisal of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women.

2. Parliamentary services

(a) Parliamentary documentation

(i) Annual reports to the General Assembly on actions taken by the organizations of the United Nations system in the implementation of the Platform for Action;

(ii) Report to the Commission on the Status of Women on the implementation of the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women.

(b) Ad hoc expert groups and relating preparatory work. One ad hoc expert group meeting on developing guidelines for the use of electronic mail in support of the programme on advancement of women (extrabudgetary).

4. Coordination, harmonization and liaison. Substantive support to relevant inter-agency bodies, including the inter-agency task force referred to in paragraph 38 of the Secretary-General's report, and support to the senior adviser of the Secretary-General. Contribution on gender aspects to the

activities of other relevant task forces established by the Administrative Committee on Coordination for the follow-up to major United Nations conferences.

III. CONCLUSIONS

16. The total additional requirements resulting from the additional activities discussed in paragraphs 5 to 7 and 10 to 12 above would amount to $596,600. In addition, an amount of $76,800 would be required for staff assessment in relation to the additional posts proposed above, to be offset by an equal amount under income section 1, Incomes from staff assessment.

17. It will be recalled that, under the procedures established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 41/213 of 19 December 1986 and 42/211 of 21 December 1987, a contingency fund is established for each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the programme budget. Further, each statement of programme budget implications and each proposal for revised estimates should contain alternatives to the financing from the contingency fund of the proposed new activities.

18. With regard to the additional requirements of $596,600, it was not possible to identify the activities within section 7A that could be terminated, deferred, curtailed or modified during the biennium to finance the costs of the additional activities under the draft resolution.

19. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.64, the activities listed in paragraph 15 above would be added to the programme of activities under section 7A, Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

20. An additional appropriation of $596,600 would be required under section 7A, Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997, subject to the guidelines for use and operation of the contingency fund. In addition, an appropriation in the amount of $76,800 would be required under section 32, Staff assessment, to be offset by an equal amount under income section 1, Incomes from staff assessment.

Notes

1/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6 and corrigendum (A/47/6/Rev.1 and Corr.1), vol. II.

2/ Ibid., Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/50/6/Rev.1), vol. I.

3/ A/CONF.177/20 and Add.1, chap. I, resolution 1, annexes.